



Morning Highlights

July 10, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-47

Contact:
Public Affairs, 356-5511

ALASKA FIRE UPDATE

New Fires

Four new fires were reported yesterday. The Prospect Creek Fire and the 4 Mile Creek Fire, both in Limited Fire Management Option areas, were caused by lightening and are in monitor status. Heavy rainfall in the area made it difficult for a zone aircraft and helitack to find the Backwater Fire yesterday; the fire was placed in monitor status.

The Benjamin Fire in Homer resulted from an escaped burn pile. It was estimated to be under half an acre. Homer Volunteer Fire Department and one State Department of Forestry engine responded. The fire was placed in monitor status and prevention is set to investigate.

Staffed Fires

The Goose Slough Fire, burning 7 miles north of Bettles, and last reported at 600 acres was 90% active yesterday with moderate fire activity in open black spruce and tundra. Action was taken yesterday in the form of air attack, two scoopers, and one load of smokejumpers; The Northstar type 2 crew arrived on scene late in the evening. Multiple thunder cells covered the fire throughout the evening causing very erratic wind shifts.

The Russian Mountain Fire, burning near Aniak, was walked by the IC yesterday and calculated to be about 42 acres. Crews continued to build the line and mop-up 50 feet inside the fire line. The fire was contained at 2100, is estimated to be controlled by this afternoon, with a possible demob date of tomorrow.

The Porcupine Ridge Fire, burning 10 miles north/northwest of McGrath, continues to smolder. Yesterday the fire was 90% contained, with 100% containment anticipated for this afternoon. Crews will grid the fire today and complete mop-up today. Equipment and supplies will begin demob today.

The Bear Creek fire, near Clear, sized to be 5 acres, has begun demobilization. The Northstar Crew was demobbed yesterday evening and were assigned to the Goose Slough Fire. Remaining personnel are expected to demob this afternoon.

GENERAL SUMMARY

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, so far this year 302 fires have burned 52,708.6 acres statewide. Currently 47 fires are active in Alaska, four are staffed.

The bulk of the 2,130 lightening strikes yesterday were in the Fort Yukon region. Thunderstorms and precipitation continue to be in the forecast for large portions of the state, with possible improvement by the weekend.

FYI

Since 1998 the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP) has guided establishment of fire management options for areas of the state to help agencies to prioritize the use of suppression resources. The management options are defined as **Critical**, **Full**, **Modified** and **Limited**.

Critical is the highest suppression priority, these fires receive immediate, aggressive action and are generally found in urban areas where human life and property are high. **Full** fire management option areas are in place for the protection of cultural and historical sites, uninhabited private property, areas of high value natural resources, and other values that do not involve the protection of human life and inhabited property. Fires on land declared full receive suppression efforts depending on resources. To balance acres burned with suppression costs and to accomplish land and resource management objectives when conditions are favorable there is **Modified** fire management option, right between full and limited. And finally **Limited** fire management option are areas where the cost of suppression may exceed the value of the resources to be protected, the impact of fire suppression on the environment may have more negative effects than fire itself, or the exclusion of the fire may be detrimental to the fire dependent ecosystem. Action may be taken within the boundary of limited management options, but generally fires are monitored and allowed to burn.

Every year the AIWFMP establishes a date to convert modified fire management option areas to limited. This year it's today. With about 3-4 weeks left of prime burning conditions in Alaska, July 10th is close enough to the end of the fire season, and conditions are favorable enough, for fires in those areas to be monitored, and if needed action taken.

ATTENTION PILOTS!

Please avoid ALL fires, even if there are no TFRs as firefighters may be taking action to suppress, monitor and map fires.

NATIONAL SITUATION

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, wildland fires throughout the country have burned 657,499 acres. The majority of the fires remain in California with 587,984 acres burned. Seven new fires were reported: one each in Texas, Alaska, Idaho, Washington, and Nevada.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

Fairbanks Area:	907-451-2626
Delta Area:	907-895-2106
Tok Area:	907-883-5134
Mat-Su District:	907-761-6312
Kenai-Kodiak Area:	907-260-4269
Valdez/ Copper River Area:	907-822-5536
Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):	907-766-2120

For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

*In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Kelsa Shilanski, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service. Note: Fire acreage estimates frequently change due to more accurate mapping and other factors.

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